

PH0010090

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: JEFFERSON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 25 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Steiner Bank Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2101 First Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN:
Birmingham

STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Jefferson CODE: 073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

Transportation Comments
 Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Charles Watterson

STREET AND NUMBER:
517 Ridge Road

CITY OR TOWN: Birmingham STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
716 21st Street North

CITY OR TOWN: Birmingham STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

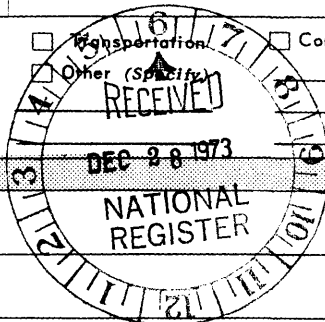
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 25 1974

DATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Steiner Bank Building is one of the best examples of the commercial use of Richardsonian Romanesque in the city of Birmingham. The building, a long and narrow rectangular structure, located on a corner lot, stands four floors from the street. The banking room is entered through a square tower, to which the rest of the building is attached.

The ground floor of the tower is in stone; two large arches, which incorporate entrances in their centers, front on First Avenue and Twenty-first Street. The voussoirs are smooth-faced, while the rest of the stonework is rusticated. A simple molding forms the sill for the second floor windows. There are six windows, three on each facade, evenly spaced between red brick corner piers. The windows are capped with rusticated stone lintels. Panels of hobnail pattern brick rise to the sill of the third floor windows, which are arched. Corbelled brick and another molding form the fourth floor sills. The brick pier located at the intersection corner of the structure is beveled. The windows are behind a row of granite columns supporting arches of rusticated stone.

The rest of the narrow building extends beyond the tower, at the same height. Sill and lintel lines remain the same. The ground floor features brick arches; the windows of the upper floors have segmented arches, except for the third floor which has complete arches. Corbelled brickwork supports an arched parapet at the top of the building.

Some time during the 1960's, an aluminum screen enclosed the front tower section, but left the features intact. The remainder of the building is exposed and intact.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

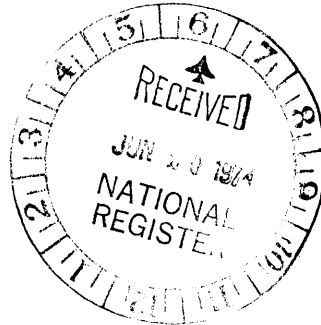
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE ALABAMA	
COUNTY JEFFERSON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 25 1974	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (Steiner Bank)

The incompatible screen will be removed during the restoration.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1890**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Steiner Bank Building housed the offices of the Steiner Brothers Bank, which financed much of the early growth of Birmingham. The building itself was not only one of the finest examples of commercial use of Richardsonian Romanesque but also the tallest building in the city, and featured the state's first elevator.

In 1888 Burghard and Sigfreid Steiner obtained a banking charter from the State of Alabama and in 1890 with the completion of the present building opened the doors of the Banking House of Steiner Brothers in Birmingham.

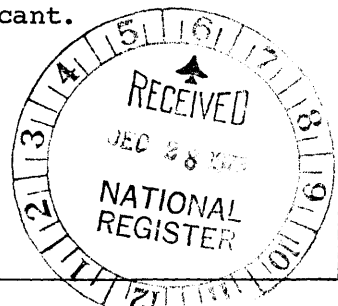
Both the Steiner brothers, born in Bohemia, came to the United States as children and settled in Central Alabama. By the time he was 21 years old, Burghard Steiner had become postmaster, store proprietor, and telegraph and railroad agent for Hamburg, Alabama. Since the nearest bank was in Selma, he began financing the cotton crop for the local farmers, and thus gained his first banking experience.

During the early years, Steiner Brothers carried on a varied business. They were investment bankers and financed much of the municipal growth of the Birmingham area. They bought and sold foreign money, dealt with mortgages, and sold steamship passage, New York hotel rooms, and train tickets to Birmingham. This plan was widely used by the European miners who came to work in the Birmingham district at that time.

The building was the first commercial building in Alabama to have an elevator, and the L & N Railroad ran a special excursion train to bring visitors to see this wonder.

At the turn of the century, the founders retired and their cousins, Leo Steiner and his brother Carl took over control. Steiners continued to operate the bank in the present building until 1963 when new facilities were constructed. At present the building is vacant.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Birmingham Public Library. Southern History and Literature Department, vertical files.

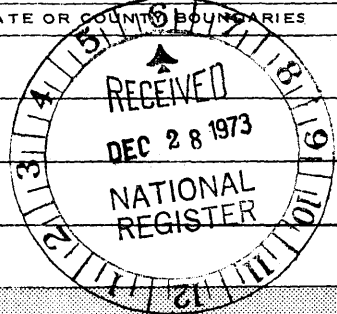
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33 °	30'	53"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		86 °	48'	14"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: 12-7-73

STREET AND NUMBER:
Garrett Coliseum

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Phil B. Howard, Jr.

Title SHPO

Date December 17, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Worland
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Director, 6/25/74

Date _____

ATTEST:

Charles W. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6/2/74